

Participating in the Graduate Nurse Education Demonstration Project: The Students' View

Background

The Graduate Nursing Education Demonstration (GNE) is a federally funded-CMS directed 4 year demonstration designed to increase the number of primary care NPs. Five sites are funded, one is Gulf Coast Region that includes a partnership between: Memorial Herman Hospital System, UT Houston, UTMB, TWU Houston, PVA&M.

NP students are placed in clinical agencies that precept the students; clinical agencies receive funding based on preceptorship hours.

Currently there is no published literature about the perceptions of GNE student participants. Review of the literature surrounding NP education reveals a paucity of knowledge regarding graduate level NP student's satisfaction with clinical agencies, clinical rotations, or preceptors: Study illuminates student perceptions regarding the innovative GNE program.

Study Aim

To explore the student nurse practitioner perceptions regarding participation in the Graduate Nurse Education (GNE) Demonstration Project

Methods

- Post experience survey using a 17 item scale (5 level: strongly disagree-strongly agree with neutral category)
- 2 narrative questions relating to positive impact and negative impact
- 1 open ended narrative question
- 1 narrative question about the impact of the GNE on the profession

Results: Sample and Items

- $n=75$ (2013 and 2014 cohorts)
- 88% female
- 79% FNP Students

Statement	Mean	S.D.
I clearly understood that I was a participant in the GNE project	4.16	1.175
I understood the clinical placement process used for the GNE project	3.59	1.406
I felt that the GNE project facilitated my clinical placements	3.51	1.324
I felt that clinical agencies accepted my clinical placement due to the GNE payments for precepting me	3.90	1.132
I felt my clinical agencies understood the GNE project	3.15	1.257
My preceptors understood the GNE project	3.01	1.284
The GNE project is helping to grow the numbers of NPs in this area	3.86	.871
There were questions from my preceptors about the GNE payments	2.66	1.474
I understood why I completed a student profile for the GNE	3.28	1.400
I felt treated fairly by the GNE placement process	3.85	1.106
My clinical education was enhanced due to the GNE	3.45	1.273
My clinical placements with GNE were timely	3.39	1.403
My GNE clinical placements were appropriate to my learning needs	3.78	1.228
My GNE clinical placements were straightforward and clear to me	3.74	1.261
I felt Memorial Hermann had my best interest in mind with my GNE placements	3.47	1.001
I felt Gateway to Care had my best interest in mind with my GNE placements	3.48	.915
I understood the overall goal of the GNE project	3.85	1.178

Results: Positive Impact Themes

- Helped with Placements
- Preceptors Receptive
- Good rotation/enjoyed/positive impact
- GNE Didn't help/self-placed
- Opened Doors
- Good incentive/Preceptors more accepting of students
- Less stressful being placed/saved time

Results: Negative Impact Themes

- No Effect
- Iffy placements/last minute/no availability/not timely
- No organization/confusing
- Site not convenient or appropriate
- Clinics taking students for money

GNE Impact on NP Community in Future

- Yes/Positive/allowed students to obtain experience
- No
- Not certain
- Can be positive, but process needs to be streamlined/kinks need to be worked out
- Will have great future impact
- Currently confusing/not a lot of information available about GNE yet
- Mostly positive impact foreseen

Results: Other Comments

- No assistance
- Needs improvement/preceptors can't teach—only want money
- Program should continue
- Focus on preceptors who want to teach, and not press the money issue
- More research needs to be done on GNE participating sites
- Preceptors need to be given more instruction on how to teach students
- Need more experienced nurses/NP as preceptors

Conclusions

- Provides for baseline data with GNE project
- Illuminates NP student perceptions
- Item means neutral or agree
- Narrative themes indicate that GNE was seen as positive, but confusion with process. GNE seen as a positive impact on NP community
- Subsequent surveys will be performed for each graduating class (2015, 2016)

References

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